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TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

21 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Meeting with Lon Nol, 20 March 1971 at 1600 hours

Participants:

General Haig	Lon Nol
Admiral McCain	Personal Secretary
Interpreter	Interpreter
Ltc Loeffke	

Gen Haig - Opened the meeting by stating that everyone in Phnom Penh missed Gen Lon Nol. Gen Haig continued with a run-down of the present military situation and briefed Gen Lon Nol on his meeting with Gen Sirik Matak, emphasizing the new task force that had been created for the protection of the Mekong, south of Phnom Penh, and that Routes 4 and 7 had been finally opened. The reorganization of the General Staff, Ministry of Defense, and the new economic measures were also discussed.

Gen Lon Nol - I am happy about the news that you bring me and that it is going well in Cambodia. What you tell me is being done is about the same plan that was established some time ago.

Please pass on to President Nixon my thanks for his kindness for everything that is being done for me here.

A letter that I received from President Nixon mentioned that you were going to Phnom Penh. I am glad that my colleagues presented you with a situation that was satisfactory.

Gen Haig - President Nixon had asked me to stop here and express his best wishes. I will tell the President how well you look.

Gen Lon Nol - The Secret Service is extremely devoted and I m very happy here. (Niceties exchanged and a new subject discussed).

Gen Haig - The operations in Southeast Asia have been very good as the fight has now been taken to the enemy. I told Gen Matak that the initial wave of patriotism has been substituted now for a resolve to tackle the serious problems that are facing the country. Cambodian troops are now returning from South Vietnam ready to fight.

Gen Lon Nol - I remember the visit of the Laotian Minister of Defense when he mentioned that he was concerned about the increased number of NVA in Laos. I told him that I would help him. If this operation in Laos was able to help our friends then it was worth it.

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Gen Haig - POWs that have been captured in Cambodia stated that they have not received supplies or reinforcements for quite some time.

Gen Lon Nol - It would be a good time to present the NVA with a new problem. They are using Routes from South Laos. As our troops become more proficient we will be able to interupt their routes.

Gen Haig - We had some concern that there was going to be some trouble during the anniversary but nothing took place.

Gen Lon Nol - There were quite a few meetings but nothing occurred. I feel the situation is irreversible.

I hope that President Nixon might look into helping us exploit oil in the gulf.

We also have a mountain with a lot of tin along highway 4. If we can secure the highway to Southern Laos we could construct a dam.

I feel like the Admiral that the NVA will soon have to give up the battle.

We have to think of the future that is why I mention the Route, the oil and the tin. This would all help to sustain our army in the future.

Gen Haig - I will make sure that your views are transmitted to the President.

Gen Lon Nol - Your great country has done a lot for us, we now have to do much for ourselves.

Gen Haig - We have to continue the unity we have attained thus far in working together so as to keep the pressure on the enemy and bring peace to the area.

Adm McCain - I wonder if you would like to show me where in Route 4 the tin deposits are.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail now has to take care of I, II, III and IV Corps. The trail has to take care of the CHUP Plantation and Laos. Which means that the NVAhave a problem of a greater magnitude than they had a year before.

Gen Lon Nol - During one of my trips to Ratamakiri I learned that there were great bauxite deposits in the area, but the Japanese did not find electricity to support explorations. When the NVA adopted the trail one of the reasons for doing this was because of the mineral resources that are there.

Adm McCain - What about the oil in Singapore and the Straits of Malacca?

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Gen Lon Nol - The oil is close to Thailand. Where the Thais are working is not the big pocket, but it is closer to us. South Vietnam wants to start digging but there is controversy between us. The real pocket of oil is closer to Thailand than to South Vietnam.

If we want to be free and to continue to fight we need economic help. We have now our own energy resources, we have tourism. From our electricity resources we can afford electricity to Laos. We have precious stones.

Gen Haig - I am very happy to see how well you look. It is now very important that you take care of yourself because ~~we and~~ and we also your country need you.

Gen Lon Nol - I am getting good advice from the Admiral.

(niceties exchanged)